

(Portland, Oregon)

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FOIAb5

Phony CIA Man, Wife Arrested

CPYRGHT

A Portland appliance salesman and his wife are scheduled to be arraigned Friday in U.S. District Court on charges he impersonated a Central Intelligence Agency employee to defraud a number of Washington, D.C., business firms in thousands of dollars worth of merchandise.

Held on \$5,000 bail each pending legal action against them are Ernest Birchfield, 38, and his wife, Jacqueline, 29, of 2411 NE 84th Ave.

THEY WERE named, along with nine others, in criminal indictments returned in April, 1963, by a Washington, D.C., federal grand jury.

Specifically, Birchfield is charged in four counts with impersonating a CIA employee and also giving false information to secure credit. Mrs. Birchfield is charged in two counts with giving false information to secure credit.

Birchfield was arrested in Seattle while his wife was apprehended in Kent, Wash. The other nine involved in what federal authorities said was conspiracy to obtain merchandise on phony credentials were arrested in the Washington, D. C., area.

FEDERAL agents said the 11 obtained \$11,544 in various appliances and other merchandise in and around the nation's capitol with phony credit.

According to authorities, Birchfield would go into a store, apply for credit and tell credit officials he was a CIA employee. He would give a telephone for the store officials to call and verify the credit application information.

However, they continued, the calls were directed to other members of the conspiracy and they would quickly "verify" that Birchfield was a CIA employee.